



History of IDEA

For most of our nation's history, schools were allowed to exclude (and often did) certain children, especially those with disabilities. Since the 1960s, however, there has been a great deal of federal legislation that relates to individuals with disabilities. State and federal laws now protect the rights of students with disabilities and guarantee that a free and appropriate, publicly supported education is available to them.

Two of the most important laws for students with disabilities are:

- ☼ Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Education Act (IDEA) 2004
- ☼ Rehabilitation Act of 1973, especially Section 504